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U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN SANTA CRUZ

Yesterday, along with representatives of the Municipality of Santa Cruz and Petrobras, the U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Philip S. Goldberg inaugurated the Special Olympics 2008 in Santa Cruz, whose motto for this year is: "I know I can."

The event, which takes at the Tahuichi Aguilera Stadium, will allow 700 athletes from diverse regions of Bolivia to compete in sports competitions for handicapped persons.

The United States Government, through its Agency for International Development, USAID, has supported the Special Olympics since 2004. This year, in addition to covering the operational costs, USAID will provide sports uniforms for the athletes and a trophy for the winning delegation.

Ambassador Goldberg remarked that with this contribution, the U.S. Government is showing its support for the creation of opportunities for handicapped people in Bolivia. Participating in this event will allow the athletes to learn about each other and to get a have an enhanced appreciation for their own outstanding efforts.

The inauguration ceremony took place on Monday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m. A live music show and fireworks also highlighted the event.